

It Has Had Its History

By CHARLES BITTINGER

Before World War I, an informal meeting of local artists and public-spirited individuals interested in art was called together in the Bittinger home. At that meeting it was decided to form the Duxbury Art Association and to have a summer exhibition. This exhibition was held on the second floor of the Partridge Academy building which stood next to the Unitarian Church since burned down.

The idea and plans of the Association were quite ambitious. In addition to paintings by local members the exhibition was to include pictures done by the best artists of Boston and New York. In fact, there appeared before long works by Benson, Wilcs, Woodbury, Sargent and others. One memorable thing exhibited at one Academy show was a not very large head-portrait of the well-known artist, Charles Woodbury, done by John Sargent. The painter had caught in an intimate way one of the most winning expressions of his good friend, Woodbury. Each stroke showed the character of each man in a way not to be forgotten and; it may be remarked, too often neglected in the tempting haste of present-day painting.

In its earlier days the Association had no funds; and the carry-
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ing out of its plans seemed prohibitive. The idea of continuing at all was about to be given up when Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Coffin offered to underwrite the first exhibition. Soon the plan of support by membership dues was lighted upon. Now the organization has prospered to the extent of having a substantial sum for starting each season.

It would be satisfying if the national character at first conceived could some day be fully developed. However, the confining of exhibitors to local or nearby artists has developed a remarkable local spirit and has brought good results, one of which is the increase in the varying arts offered besides painting,

Ship Exhibits

In 1922, the Association, besides its regular Show, featured a special exhibition of pictures and models of ships built in Duxbury and Kingston. Clifton Dwinell sponsored this part of the display. Unique was the presence on a Sunday afternoon of some of the aging ship-masters and sailors who stood beside their ships and told adventures about them.

At present the Show is held in Old Town Hall with exhibits that might have overflowed the Academy.

A feature today of the Exhibition Opening is a tea held for members on Sunday afternoon just before the Monday public opening. Miss Louise Coburn is this year's hostess. The tea will be held at Old Town Hall, Sunday, August 16, from 4 to 6 p. m.